

Charity registration number: 1183542

A Common Word Among The Youth

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

A Common Word Among The Youth

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A Common Word Among The Youth

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Lola Matmusaeva

Dr Brian Jon Adams

Mohammed Jehangir Malik

Principal Office

258 Broad Street

Quayside Tower

Office 506 (5th floor)

Birmingham

B1 2HF

Charity Registration Number

1183542

Independent Examiner

Nasir Rafiq

Dua Governance

123-131 Bradford Street

Bradford Court

Birmingham

B12 0NS

A Common Word Among The Youth

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY) is a global youth movement that brings together young changemakers from diverse backgrounds who are committed to interfaith action and peacebuilding. ACWAY seeks to increase the understanding of different faiths and cultures, promote peace and coexistence, and develop the skills and capacity of young changemakers to take local action on issues within their own communities.

The main objects of the charity can be summed up as the following:

- 1) Train young people to be active citizens.
- 2) Empower young people to deliver local community activities that promote peace and understanding.
- 3) Organise events, conferences and campaigns to promote cohesion and understanding between different communities and cultures.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

A Common Word Among The Youth

Trustees' Report

Achievements and performance

OVERVIEW

A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY) is a global youth movement that brings together young interfaith practitioners from a multitude of backgrounds to increase understanding of different cultures and faiths, promote peace and coexistence, develop skills to help local communities and deliver shared solutions in the form of local action.

ACWAY has organized seven forums to date: six in- person international forums in Morocco (2015), Australia (2016), Sudan (2017), Azerbaijan (2019), Italy (2021), Qatar (2023) and one online international forum for the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week in February 2021.

In the period between April 2023 and March 2024, ACWAY has continued to work on strengthening its capacity and evaluate some of its activities and engagement with young people. This year saw the change in leadership with the executive director stepping down to enable the recruitment of a younger member of the ACWAY pool of fellows to continue to drive the organisation and reflect the youthful leadership of the organization.

Activities

Throughout the year, we actively participated in G20 Interfaith Forum-related events, making our presence felt on the international stage. In May, our fellows from the region sparked conversations at the IF20 event in Delhi, India. Meanwhile, our endeavours at the G20IF in Pune, India (5-7 September) showcased our dedication to fostering global collaboration and understanding by amplifying youth voices.

In July 2023, a youth fellow organized an activity called “Intercultural Dialogues” in Erfurt, Germany on June 9, 2023, that engaged twenty young people from Erfurt and Thuringen region who came from various cultural and religious backgrounds. The activity involved youth from France, Mexico, Ukraine, Ghana, Russia, Nigeria, Germany, Estonia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. The workshop aimed to contribute to the culture of peace in the local community, reflecting on the current realities and challenges for migrants and building personal bonds between the participants.

We organised an online webinar on “ Religious Literacy: the Gateway to Sustainable Peace” on July 28, 2023. The webinar featured leaders of different faith traditions sharing experiences of incorporating religious literacy in the informal education system.

ACWAY’s webinar series is an entirely fellow-designed and fellow-led initiative! ACWAY Fellow Talks started in 2020 with the aim of promoting collaboration, sharing resources, and creating a virtual community amongst ACWAY Fellows in between global forums.

On August 16th, ACWAY fellows based in North America came together in full force to facilitate a session titled 'Religion, (In-) Justice, and Human Rights: A Global Response through Local Action', at the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Chicago, USA. Led by five of our fellows, the session explored the role of personal stories and grassroots interfaith practices in the global movement for justice. Through intentional dialogue, the session explored ACWAY’s youth engagement model, anchored by the Interfaith Development Goals (IDGs), developed and used by ACWAY Fellows themselves.

On December 8, 2023 at COP 28 in Dubai, a number of our distinguished fellows shared their experiences on leading projects related to faith and environment, noting the rise of eco-anxiety among young people and the importance of faith and community-based activism to counter it. The team called for global collaboration on the Interfaith Development Goals (IDGs).

A Common Word Among The Youth

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is a Charity Incorporated Organisation and registered with the Charity Commission on the 23 May 2019 (Charity reg: 1183542).

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Cash flow risk

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. The charity uses foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts to hedge these exposures.

Interest bearing assets and liabilities are held at fixed rate to ensure certainty of cash flows.

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Trustees' Report

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies.

The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity uses a mixture of long-term and short-term debt finance.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on **29 January 2025** and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mohammed Jehangir Malik
Trustee

A Common Word Among The Youth

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on **29 January 2025** and signed on its behalf by:

Jehangir Malik

.....
Mohammed Jehangir Malik
Trustee

A Common Word Among The Youth

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of A Common Word Among The Youth

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 9 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of A Common Word Among The Youth you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of the A Common Word Among The Youth's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of A Common Word Among The Youth as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Nasir Rafiq
ICAEW

Dua Governance
123-131 Bradford Street
Bradford Court
Birmingham
B12 0NS

Date: **29 January 2025**

A Common Word Among The Youth

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities		(22,006)	(22,006)
Total expenditure		(22,006)	(22,006)
Net expenditure		(22,006)	(22,006)
Net movement in funds		(22,006)	(22,006)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		49,919	49,919
Total funds carried forward	8	27,913	27,913
			Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies		124,170	124,170
Total income		124,170	124,170
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities		(116,969)	(116,969)
Total expenditure		(116,969)	(116,969)
Net income		7,201	7,201
Net movement in funds		7,201	7,201
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		42,718	42,718
Total funds carried forward	8	49,919	49,919

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 8.

A Common Word Among The Youth

(Registration number: 1183542)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	6	31,274	52,950
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(3,361)</u>	<u>(3,031)</u>
Net assets		<u>27,913</u>	<u>49,919</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		<u>27,913</u>	<u>49,919</u>
Total funds	8	<u><u>27,913</u></u>	<u><u>49,919</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 9 to 17 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on **29 January 2025** and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mohammed Jehangir Malik
Trustee

A Common Word Among The Youth

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

A Common Word Among The Youth meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grants, including capital grants;		
Grants from other charities	-	<u>124,170</u>
	-	<u>124,170</u>

3 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Activity undertaken directly £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Travel and subsistence	1,042	1,042	50,749
Governance	1,530	1,530	1,530
Project Activities	8,902	8,902	17,309
Office Expenses	1,105	1,105	1,981
Consultancy	<u>9,427</u>	<u>9,427</u>	<u>45,400</u>
	<u>22,006</u>	<u>22,006</u>	<u>116,969</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

4 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	<u>1,530</u>	<u>1,530</u>	<u>1,530</u>
	<u>1,530</u>	<u>1,530</u>	<u>1,530</u>

A Common Word Among The Youth

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

5 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

6 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	31,274	52,950

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	-	1
Accruals	3,361	3,030
	3,361	3,031

8 Funds

		Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds		49,919	(22,006)	27,913
	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Restricted funds	42,718	124,170	(116,969)	49,919

9 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds 2024 £
Current assets	31,274	31,274
Current liabilities	(3,361)	(3,361)
Total net assets	27,913	27,913